

LEMBECK AND BETZ EAGLE BREWERY,
LAGER PLANT ADDITION
515-519 Luis Munoz Marin Boulevard
Jersey City
Hudson County
New Jersey

HAER No. NJ-113-E

HAER
NJ
9-JERC1,
20E-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
National Park Service
Philadelphia Support Office
U.S. Custom House
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

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LOCATION: 515-519 Luis Munoz Marin Boulevard, Jersey City, Hudson County, New Jersey. USGS Jersey City, NJ Quadrangle, UTM Coordinates: 18.580960.4508840

DATES OF CONSTRUCTION: 1904; altered 1920

BUILDER Unknown

PRESENT OWNER: City of Jersey City, New Jersey

PRESENT USE: Vacant and abandoned storage buildings

SIGNIFICANCE: The Lembeck & Betz Eagle Brewery Lager Plant Addition is a representative example of late nineteenth-century industrial architecture associated with brewing.

PROJECT INFORMATION: The Lembeck & Betz Eagle Brewery Lager Plant Addition was recorded in October 1996 by the Cultural Resource Group of Louis Berger & Associates, Inc., East Orange, New Jersey, for the Jersey City Redevelopment Agency. The recordation was undertaken pursuant to the stipulations of the New Jersey Historic Sites Council Resolution No. 544-95, dated May 17, 1994, responding to the city of Jersey City's request to demolish the complex. Project personnel included Richard M. Casella, Senior Architectural Historian, and Rob Tucher, Senior Photographer.

DESCRIPTION

The Lager Plant Addition was built in 1904, and consists of two brick structures connected to one another and to the rear of the Lager Brew House (HAER No. NJ-113-C). The building is located on the corner of Luis Munoz Marin Boulevard and Tenth Street, with its principal facade fronting the boulevard. The south section of the building is three bays wide and six stories in height; the north section is three bays wide and five stories in height, with a two-story elevator tower above the roof in the northwest corner. The sides and rear of the building are undistinguished, with all original window openings bricked up and later rectangular window openings placed randomly and devoid of sash.

Like the Bottling Plant built at the same time, this building stylistically mimics the other buildings within the complex, utilizing elements of classical detailing but to a less elaborate degree. The segmentally-arched window hoods are less heavily corbeled, and the facade lacks decorative belt courses. The ground-floor facade facing the boulevard utilizes the same cast-iron pillars as those on the front of the bottling plant to carry a steel header and separate six large window and door bays which are now bricked closed.

Window openings, which have either been bricked closed or reduced to smaller rectangular openings, are identifiable by the segmentally-arched window heads which remain, one per bay. The shadow line of a two-story row house which once abutted the north wall is clearly evident. Also located on the north side is a concrete loading platform which runs across about two-thirds of the north side of the building, protected by a corrugated-metal canopy supported by steel-pipe columns.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

In 1904, following the deaths of John Betz in 1901 and Henry Lembeck in 1903, the founders of the company, the company directors launched another expansion program. The Lager Plant Addition, which was added to the north side of the Lager Brew House, was part of that expansion. The Bottling House and Storehouse (HAER No. NJ-113-D) was also built at this time. The new addition approximately doubled the lager brewing capacity of the plant.

In 1920, with the imposition of Prohibition, the owners converted the building to a cold storage facility. As with the other buildings in the complex, windows were closed in with brick, and cork insulation was applied to the interior walls and covered with a cement-based plaster. The complex was operated as the New Jersey Refrigeration Company and then as National Cold Storage until some time in the 1960s or 1970s, and has remained vacant since. The city of Jersey City acquired the building in 1979 through tax foreclosure.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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